UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/122
S/22403
27 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Item 72 of the preliminary list*
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS
AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES
IN THE NEAR EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 26 March 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the decision made on 26 March 1991 by the Government of Japan to make a donation to the Gulf crisis-related emergency food distribution programme of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 72 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yoshio HATANO
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
Japan to the United Nations

* A/46/50.

ANNEX

Donation of the Government of Japan to the Gulf crisis-related emergency food distribution programme of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

1. The Government of Japan, in response to a request from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), decided on Tuesday, 26 March 1991, to make a contribution of 1.37 billion yen (approximately $US 10 million) from its reserve fund in support of the efforts of UNRWA on behalf of Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

2. The Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are facing deteriorating economic conditions and food shortages because of the cessation of income remitted by migratory workers in the Gulf region, the decrease in economic assistance from nations in the Gulf region, and the curfew imposed by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories as a result of the Gulf crisis. UNRWA established an emergency food distribution programme for 295,000 households (about 1.7 million people) in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for the three-month period that began in mid-January this year in order to address the problem of malnutrition among the Palestinian people, and it has sent requests to various countries in the world for donations towards the sum of about $US 33 million needed to implement the said programme. On 7 March, a letter from the Acting Commissioner-General of UNRWA was dispatched to the Japanese Government requesting a contribution to the programme.

3. In response, the Government of Japan, in a humanitarian effort to help eliminate the problem of malnutrition among the Palestinians caused by the Gulf crisis, has decided to extend this emergency aid. The Japanese donation is the largest donation from a single country and is second only to that of the European Community.